

Ward 6 NPA Meeting
Nov 7 2019
Meeting Minutes

6:30 start

All committee members present (Michelle Mraz, Joel Fitzgerald, Mary Riley, Gail Rafferty and Matt Grady)

Public Comment

PhiPhi Kaplan

Public safety, looking to pass ordinance to close loophole in fair/impartial policing policy

If new americans do not feel safe, worried about their own status, this creates a public safety issue

Concens with profiling...which diverts resources, allows collaboration with ICE, border police

Reaching out to all stakeholders, organizing individual meetings with city councilors, just getting started

Sandy Yusen / Champlain

Lisa Kingsbury, Joe Spiedel / UVM

Athletics projects underway @UVM

Small addition to music building starting in the spring

About the same enrollment as recent years, 10.5K undergrad

2015 housing master plan, update ongoing (undergrad and graduate), being vetted

JoeS. – quality of life efforts

Gardening project on Isham Street, BTV police patrols ongoing, writing tix when needed, downturn in the number of incidents

Suresh Garamilla new president since July1, coming to ward6 NPA meeting in March

SandyY – presidential search ongoing, Dr. Laurie Quinn interim president, Catherine Morgan acting provost

Search committee formed, prospectus on website, open search, should have decision by spring/summer

Enrollment consistent with past, 2100 undergrad, 100+ studying abroad, 3200 online

Pedestrian safety efforts, bump-out on South Willard, moved the crosswalk, increased visibility, also installing walk beacons

194 St Paul businesses pretty happy with re-opening of street, buses will be on more regular routes

Q: champlain students who park on Kingsland, what do we do?

A: Sandy will take down location and make sure patrol is active

Q: shuttles, how many?, capacity? Ridership? Larger buses on limited times, perhaps?

A: two active at any time, maybe 80 capacity, sometimes only 5-10 riders, but there are some heavy/full times

Q/Comment: see lots of students riding with no lights, worrying, could use some education

BED Net Zero Energy Future (<http://www.burlingtonelectric.com/NZE>)

Jennifer Green, Darren Springer

Point is to transition off of gasoline, propane, oil

118 employees, 23000+ customers

McNeil largest state power plant

Have had very strong efficiency results, -6.1% lower electricity usage than 1989, while state is +8.4% and country is +29%

Generation 1/3rd from McNeil, 1/3rd from hydro, 1/3rd from wind (Sheffield/Georgia Mountain), small contribution from solar (0.3%->1.4% from 2017-18)

Roadmap to net zero, synapse and RSG consulting on plan

Transportation majority of energy consumption in btw, then commercial/residential buildings. 2030 is the target goal. Reduces CO2 emissions by over 50%

60% of effort into buildings, electrify heat...20% is vehicles...15% is district energy (waste heat from McNeil), 5% is alternative transport (bike/walk/etc.)

Many 'tier3' innovation programs (rebates, incentives, for e-bikes, electric vehicles, charging stations, etc.)...will have two e-buses by the end of the year

20 new charging stations coming this year

Q/A : charging stations maps? bed website

Q: can early adopters get rebates/etc?

A: need to have 'proof' that the incentives changed behavior, working on 'smart charging cords' to get the EV rate

Q: admirable goal, but disconnect with residential public policy...no resident only parking on 'the hill'?

A: will look into it...KarenP, no such elimination of resident only parking

Q: public transit, never more than 10-15min wait in large cities, GMP has cut back service, going the wrong direction, most vehicles single driver

A: public transit is 15%+ of the net zero plan, recognize the problem

Comment: dismayed by lack of use of buses, is better that timing is every 20min instead of 30min, but still underutilized, can't depend on it

Q: holdup for use of spare heat?

A: was in original permit in 1984, cost of infrastructure is the problem (UVM med, other buildings), potentially the largest single project

Comment: Singapore plan, burns trash, clean outflow, could be a best practice

Q: new passenger train electric or diesel? Include airport?

A: use building information for airport (heating/ground transport), not air travel

Q: where will the electricity come from?

A: 65% more renewable electricity needed, integrated resource plan addressing this, will have to upgrade infrastructure over a 10 year period

Q: are we required to deliver with minimum cost?

A: yes, but are allowed to account for environmental costs

Comment: Denmark/Switzerland, also burns trash, you don't have to transport out of the city, even in the city of Zurich...also have to somehow account for cars coming into the city, more comprehensive planning, regional planning not just the city

Q: solar comes from where?

A: housing, some commercial bldgs, airport, some larger arrays

Burlington Tenants Union

Fighting for rights for tenants vs landlords, inclusivity, better housing (repairs), keeping up to code

Tenants being evicted due to complaints about needed work

Had summit for renters at the library

Low income people are being force out of btw

Landlords are raising rates above section8 limits to price people out

Chris – recently joined the union, Megan/Dylan at decker towers, exchanging services for housing, could not afford unless they did this, working two jobs as a result

Have to prioritize scarce resources for homelessness, not enough housing to go around, precarious situation, puts people at risk, chronic problem

Kristy – aiming to change housing for renters...rent caps (rather than rent control), tenants' rights expansion, tenants don't know they have rights. Tenants dealing with 'no cause' evictions, no law support to be able to fight in court. Air B&Bs take out 270 units/year. Two more hotels being built, rather than affordable housing, taking away housing possibilities.

Inclusionary zoning, landlords can now charge for parking, over the top. Also want to segregate housing, unfair for the 60% of people that are renters.

Code enforcement not doing their job, landlords get away with cosmetic changes that don't affect the underlying problem.

Q: cedo charter all about development, should this be changed to housing?

A: just starting out, trying to think about how to address these issues

Q: air b&b, city position?

A: Karen Paul: complicated problem, some people rent 1 room to allow themselves to stay in their home, don't want to eliminate this...but 'revenue only' rentals, that needs some consideration

Water Resources Division, Rates and Affordability

Megan Moir

Oct29 had public meeting

Very sensitive about rates

Need a high reliability system, is enough \$\$ being collected to be on a sustainable path?

Not supported by property taxes, directly from water bill, 10K connections, 43 full time staff, \$17.5M budget

Main provision is drinking water, also fire protection

Wastewater, main function is recovery as best as possible, put back in hydrologic cycle

34M gallons processed in last storm, 3.52inches in 14hrs, almost as much as Irene!

Stormwater dept. started in 2009, starting to make appropriate investment levels to keep things working / not backsliding

BTV has combined/holistic view of water, not the same in other municipalities

\$1M/year debt service

Looking at different rate structures, can assistance be offered, doing stakeholder engagement

Typical customer about \$50/month today, 0.5c per gallon, 37c for a shower

Looking at many different fees, most costs are fixed...so considering something like an 'admin charge' to stabilize revenue stream...other charges for extreme users
Looking at inclining block rate...initial block cheaper, then higher rate for more use...won't work for multi-family buildings, businesses would have higher rates since that's not an essential use
Full suite of affordability programs being considered, many possibilities
Want to bring results to city council in Feb
Q: wastewater measured?
A: no, too difficult to measure, use inflow as the measure instead
Q: waterfront digesters?
A: no, digesters do not break down pfos, so this is a problem
Q: testing for pfos? State does not charge for spring water extraction?
A: yes btw is testing, it is incoming to the plant, not a good way to strip it out, none in drinking water...hard to administer the water extraction
Q: options for waste reduction in btw?
A: conservation hasn't been a priority in the past, since we have such an abundance...but that would reduce wastewater requirements...using stormwater to flush toilets comes to mind as one great possible use, but it is often a code issue...or using rainbarrels for watering

School District

Clare Wool/Jeff Wick

ClareW - Bhs/btv re-envisioning

Not over budget, schematic design stage with Black River, 'wish list' formed, 280K square feet

August work came back with some asbestos problems, site seismic problems

We have \$70M, that's the budget, have to be creative, will present next design next week Tuesday

Nov21 is public meeting on the topic, bsdvt website has updates

Hvac system alone was estimated at \$20M

No longer wrapping around south side of bldg., the soils won't support it (4 story bldg), will add on east side instead...will involve some renovation rather than all new construction

Superintendent...board was notified of intent to finish at the end of the upcoming fiscal year on Monday. Already have met with Dan French, he will assist in recruitment.

JeffW – negotiations with union have started, contract due in July, health care now bargained state-wide so it might take a bit longer to let that play out.

Annual budgeting process started, 4% increase/range last year, got a lot of value out of that, new kindergarten para-educators

New principals in elementary schools

Q: cars parked on grass at Edmunds?

A: construction reduced spaces in back, working on some alternative

Q: traffic changes on South Union yet?

A: no, that will remain, don't have a good solution for that yet, road alternative was not well received

Q: thanks for transparency about budget...timetable for start of construction?

A: summer of 2021 start of project

Q: south union, connect with bike lane, this is discouraging, cars not allowed to park there, design issue, also convenience/education

A: Edmunds the most 'city' school, hard to even get substitutes because there's no parking, hard to educate people

Q: would bsd consider shuttle for permanent employees? Down around pine street, piggyback with champlain?

A: have not considered this in the past, interesting idea, definitely need some new thought here

Q: will superintendent get paid for full contract?

A: board has to discuss that next week, then there will be more info

Adjourn 8:35pm

Minutes by Matt Grady